

Docket No.: 32307-230955
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Watanabe et al.

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Confirmation No.: N/A

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Art Unit: N/A

For: VERTICAL MAGNETIC RECORDING
MEDIUM, PROCESS FOR PRODUCING
THE SAME AND MAGNETIC RECORDING
APPARATUS

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement accompanies the new patent application submitted herewith.

References BA to BF are cited in the International Search Report from the PCT application. A concise explanation of these references is in the form of the enclosed English language copy of the International Search Report, which refers to the relevant portions of the references.

References AB to AD are English-language counterparts to references BA to BC, respectively.

References AA, BG to BL, and CA are cited in the specification of this application.

English-language abstracts are provided for references BD to BL.

Applicant has not submitted a copy of the cited U.S. patent as required by 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i), amended October 2004, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has waived this requirement for all U.S. patent applications. Applicant submits herewith copies of foreign and non-patents in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2).

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is “prior art” for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

10/578681

IAP12 Rec'd PCT/PTO 09 MAY 2006

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The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 22-0261, under Order No. 32307-230955. A Fee Transmittal is enclosed.

Dated: May 9, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By


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PTO/SB/08a/b (07-05)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Application Number	Not Yet Assigned
				Filing Date	Concurrently Herewith
				First Named Inventor	Sadayuki Watanabe
				Art Unit	N/A
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	32307-230955

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (<i>if known</i>)			
AA*	US-5,679,473-A	10-21-1997	Akihiro MURAYAMA et al.		
AB*	US 2003/0064253 A1	04-03-2003	Hiroyuki UWAZUMI et al.		
AC*	US 2003/0219630 A1	11-27-2003	Kenichi MORIWAKI et al.		
AD*	US 2003/0059651 A1	03-27-2003	Kenji SHIMIZU et al.		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (<i>if known</i>)			
BA	JP-2003-77122		03-14-2003	FUJI ELECTRIC CO LTD	
BB	JP-2003-346317		12-05-2003	FUJI PHOTO FILM CO LTD	
BC	JP-2003-91811		03-28-2003	SHOWA DENKO KK	
BD	JP-2003-162812		06-06-2003	FUJI ELECTRIC CO LTD	✓
BE	JP-2004-022082		01-22-2004	FUJI ELECTRIC HOLDINGS CO LTD	✓
BF	JP-2004-310910		11-04-2004	SHOWA DENKO KK ET AL.	✓
BG	JP-2002-358615		12-13-2002	SHOWA DENKO KK ET AL.	✓
BH	JP-03-058316		03-13-1991	SONY CORPORATION	✓
BI	JP-2001-101651		04-13-2001	HITACHI LTD	✓
BJ	JP-2000-306228		11-02-2000	UNIV TOHOKU	✓
BK	JP-2000-311329		11-07-2000	UNIV TOHOKU	✓
BL	JP-2001-043526		02-16-2001	FUJI ELECTRIC CO LTD	✓

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹CITE NO.: Those application(s) which are marked with a single asterisk () next to the Cite No. are not supplied (under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(iii)) because that application was filed after June 30, 2003 or is available in the IFW. ²Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ³See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ⁴Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁵For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁶Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁷Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			T ²
	CA	T. OIKAWA et al., "MICROSTRUCTURE AND MAGNETIC PROPERTIES OF CoPtCr-SiO ₂ PERPENDICULAR RECORDING MEDIA," IEEE Transactions on Magnetics, Vol. 38, No. 5, September 2002, pgs. 1976-1978.			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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